

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6949

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TAGS: PINT, MX, PFOR, EIND, US

SUBJECT: AMCHAM CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT JOSE

LOPEZ PORTILLO

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT-ELECT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO (JLP) IN A RECENT MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF MEXICO (AMCHAM) SHOWED INTEREST IN AND SENSITIVITY CONCERNING THE AMCHAM'S JUDGEMENT AND ATTITUDES AND HE ACCEPTED AMCHAM'S OFFER TO ARRANGE VISITS FOR HIM TO LEADING INDUSTRIAL CITIES IN CONNECTION WITH HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MEETING WITH JLP WAS AT AMCHAM INITIATIVE TO PRESENT HIM WITH A LEATHER-BOUND COPY OF THE STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE STUDY CONCERNING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MEXICO AND TO POINT OUT 1) THE ADVANTAGES OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO MEXICO, 2) THE OBSTACLES TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MEXICO (LAW ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT, LAW ON TRADE-MARKS AND PATENTS AND THE WORLDWIDE SCARCITY OF CAPITAL) AND 3) THE INCENTIVES WHICH ATTRACT INVESTMENT (EXPANDING MARKET, FREE CONVERTIBILITY OF FUNDS, AND ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL STABILITY. (DURING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREVIOUS MEETING WITH JLP, PRIOR TO HIS ELECTION, THE

AMCHAM HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT PLAN). IN RESPONSE TO JLP'S QUESTION, THE AMCHAM STATED THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH THE LAW ON TRADEMARKS AND PATENTS CENTERED AROUND THE TWIN TRADE-MARK REQUIREMENT WHICH ALSO HANDICAPPED EXPORTS OF MEXICAN PRODUCTS. THE AMCHAM BELIEVED HE WAS RECEPTIVE TO THEIR PRESENTATION OF THIS PROBLEM AND THAT THE DOOR WAS LEFT OPEN FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER. JLP STATED THAT MEXICO WAS NOT UNDERDEVELOPED, BUT UNDER-ADMINISTERED AND GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT BE SO PERSONALIZED AS THE PRESENT. HE INDICATED CONCERN ABOUT MEXICO AND THE PROBLEMS HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD FACE IN 1977, BUT FELT OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING SUBSEQUENT YEARS. HE INQUIRED WHY THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT WHICH IS NEEDED AND WANTED DOES NOT COME TO MEXICO. THE AMCHAM DISCREETLY REFRAINED FROM REPLYING TO THIS QUESTION.

2. THE AMCHAM INVITED JLP TO VISIT IMPORTANT U.S. INDUSTRIAL CITIES TO ATTRACT US INVESTMENT TO MEXICO. JLP ACCEPTED INDICATING HE WOULD BE TRAVELING FIRST TO GUATEMALA AND TO VISIT "MY FRIEND CARLOS ANDRES" IN VENEZUELA, PERMITTING HIM TO TRAVEL TO THE US IN LATE SEPTEMBER. THE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 22 WAS MENTIONED FOR BEGINNING INDUSTRIAL CITIES' TOUR AND JLP INDICATED HE COULD DEVOTE REMAINDER OF MONTH THIS ACTIVITY IF NECESSARY. THERE WAS DISCUSSION CONCERNING VISITS TO NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND POSSIBLY SAN FRANCISCO AFTER HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE AMCHAM WAS ASKED TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH JULIO RODOLFO MOCTEZUMA WHO WOULD ACCOMPANY JLP ON HIS VISIT.

3. THE MEETING TERMINATED WITH JLP'S DISCUSSION OF THE ATTACK ON HIS SISTER WHICH HE STATED WAS AN ATTEMPT TO KILL (NOT KIDNAP) HER. SHE HAD SEVERAL BULLET GRAZES, HE SAID, WHICH REMOVED HAIR FROM HER HEAD.

4. COMMENT: THIS SECOND MEETING OF JLP WITH THE AMCHAM, HIS WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO THEIR DESCRIPTION OF OBSTACLES TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MEXICO AND HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCEPTANCE OF AMCHAM'S OFFER TO ARRANGE VISITS TO US INDUSTRIAL CITIES TO ATTRACT US INVESTMENT TO MEXICO EVIDENCES A DESIRE ON HIS PART TO WORK WITH THE AMCHAM AND TO ATTRACT ADDITIONAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT TO MEXICO. THE COMMENT CONCERNING UNDER-ADMINISTRATION IN MEXICO IS CONSISTENT WITH AUTHORITATIVE REPORTS THAT HE HAS A TASK FORCE PREPARING FOR HIS CONSIDERATION RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING REORGANIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE

GOM--PERHAPS INCLUDING "SUPER-MINISTRIES". THE COMMENT CONCERNING THE DIFFICULTIES HE FORESEES IN 1977 MAY REFLECT NORMAL PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZING A NEW ADMINISTRATION, COMPLICATED BY 1) A REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, 2) FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND 3) AN OUT-GOING PRESIDENT RELUCTANT TO BE LEFT OUT.
JOVA

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